**President.**—It is not always the rule that it should be given to the lowest tenderer. We must see whether he will do the work satisfactorily. We know that Mr. V. K. Narayana Menon is an experienced man, and we thought that he will do the work properly. The Government should be allowed some discretion to pick up the right person.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Do not these contractors give security to the Government?

**President.**—Yes.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Then, where is the necessity for the Government to entertain any fear?

**President.**—Although these contractors give us security, they will give us a lot of trouble. It is the personal factor that counts much in all these cases. Sometimes, they will take their own time to do the work. Sometimes, they will not have ready money to start with; and we may require the completion of the work very early. Please remember, Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, that you are not grown up to understand these things.

## The damage to the Lunatic Asylum building.

374. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the exact stage at which the enquiry regarding the damage caused to a new building in the Lunatic Asylum *now stands*;

(b) the names of the individuals who were at fault and the nature of the punishment meted out to them;

(c) whether this work was under article 126 of *the P. W. Code*;

(d) the date of damage caused to the building and the date when the enquiry (in answer to question No. 158 of the Vrischigam session) was begun?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—(a) The enquiry is completed.

(b) (1) Mr. P. Varadachari, Overseer. Fine Rs. 10 and barring promotion for one year.

(2) E. M. Joseph, Section Superintendent. Suspension for 2 months.

(3) Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar, Assistant Engineer. Warning.

(c) Yes.

(d) The damage occurred on 26th June 1925, and the enquiry was started on 2nd July 1925.

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**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar, warning; Overseer, fined Rs. 10 and barrnig promotion for one year and Section Superintendent suspension for two months. Was any menial below this man dismissed on this account?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—No.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—The punishment seems to be in the inverse ratio to the position and pay. Does the Government think that this is the proper way to give punishment to the subordinates?

**President.**—We cannot be troubled by these questions, Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar. We considered the matter, took explanations, and disposed of the matter. Of course, if you were given the authority to enquire into these matters, the punishment would have been different.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Sub-division (c). It comes under this Standing Order; that is to say, the Chief Engineer was to check-measure this work. So, did the Government take any action against the Chief Engineer, for the default? The other officers were punished. He was to check-measure this work.

**President.**—When the estimate is below a certain amount, the Assistant Engineer is to check-measure it. There it is said that he will be responsible. So it is not the fault of the Chief Engineer. That is a matter that does not fall to his lot. Check-measuring is quite a different thing.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Is it an opening ceremony?

**President.**—I object to your statement.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Then, I withdraw it.

## A list of Head constables.

**375. Mr. M. K. Raman.**—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a list of the names of the Head constables in the service of the State who have put in a service of thirty years or who have completed the age of 55?

**Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur.**—Head constables who have put in a service of thirty years are (1) 49, Velu Menon, (2) 337, Govinda Menon, (3) 140, Gopalan Nayar, (4) 90, Swaminatha Ayyar and (5) 350, Shaik Ismail. Nobody has completed the age of 55.

**Mr. M. K. Raman.**—About some topic, I had sent a number of questions, and only two of them are answered. Time after time they were not answered, and so I am not in a

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